

Hello, I am Nick Shannon an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader at Tappan Middle School in Ann Arbor Michigan. I am sorry that I cannot be there in person today, but it is important for me that I still pass on what I would like to say. I am a citizen concerned about the Darfur genocide that is currently happening in the Sudanese region. I am sad that the Janjaweed have taken more than 200,000 lives and have made millions flee their homes. I am very fortunate to be living in Michigan, but still feel that it is important to step up and help people living in this horrible state.

I hope to help you understand that we have the power to end the genocide. The way we can help is to cut off the Janjaweed from money. We know that they are functioning on government funding, much of which comes directly from certain companies, including the infamous oil company, PetroChina.

This proposed bill - # 4854 cuts off Michigan funding to these certain companies that are involved in Sudan (there are a lot more companies than the one I said). With Michigan funding cut from these companies, hopefully they will realize that soon many other states and countries will withdraw - telling them to haul out of Sudan. With companies leaving Sudan and their economy slipping (not to mention the Janjaweed losing its majority of funding) they will hopefully end the tragic genocide in hope of reestablishing their economy.

With Michigan taking the first step hopefully many states will follow our good example, maybe even countries; we could truly be a crucial step in ending the genocide.

Thank you,

Nick Shannon